



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLETTER



Fall 2011

Number 89

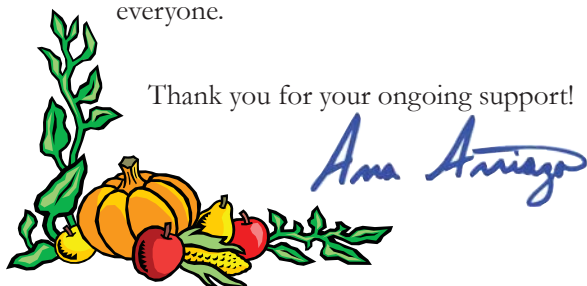
Program Update

Thank you for your continued time and dedication! Throughout the summer, volunteers helped at numerous outreach events. Many of you helped at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair in August. As a result of your hard work, we reached over 5,000 fair participants! Thank you to everyone who volunteered during the fair!

This November we will celebrate America Recycles Day during the weekend of November 19 - 20, 2011. We will hold two paper shredding/recycling and reusable household goods/clothing donation events. Participate either by volunteering, shredding your confidential paper, or donating household goods.

If you can't join us for America Recycles Day, please join us for the Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade. Staff and volunteers will decorate a truck with recyclable items and will walk the parade route with Rocco the Recycling Retriever. You can also watch your participation in the parade on local news channels. I look forward to seeing everyone.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



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Reduce!

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that every person throws away an average of 1,600 pounds of trash annually. It turns out that with the amount of garbage produced in the U.S., a line of garbage trucks could potentially reach the moon. Although this is not feasible, you get the point -- **that's a lot of trash.** Montgomery County's goal is to recycle 50 percent of all trash generated. In addition to recycling, don't forget one important thing, reduce! Reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place helps with not having to find ways to dispose of it.



Below are a couple of suggestions that can help you reduce the amount of trash being generated at home:

- Packaging - Did you know that packaging makes up 30 percent of the trash generated in the U.S.? When buying things keep in mind the amount of packaging you are bringing home. Are there alternatives? Buy in concentrate form. You can even use a reusable container to dilute.
- Do you really need to print that? Before hitting the print button decide if it really is necessary. If you must print, don't forget to use your printers' double sided feature.
- Use reusable mugs. Some stores will even give you a discount for using a reusable mug.
- Donate or hold a yard sale. Your trash becomes someone else's treasure.
- Find a new use for an item. For example, you have a sock with holes, don't despair. Use it as a rag. Wash it first, of course.
- Be creative and have fun with it. There are many ways to reduce the amount of trash generated at home. Make it a fun challenge for the entire family.



A Job Well Done!

Once again, volunteers have done an outstanding job at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. This year the weather was rainy and steamy, but through it all everyone was enthusiastic. At the Fair, staff and volunteers spoke to almost 5,200 fair participants! Forty-three volunteers donated close to three hundred hours of their time.

Thank you for your hard work!



Volunteers educating residents during the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair at the Division of Solid Waste Services' informational booth
August 12 - August 20, 2011



Holiday Light Recycling

As you get ready for the holiday season don't despair if you find broken holiday lights. Those lights can be recycled. Some retailers are offering coupons in exchange for your broken or used incandescent holiday lights. Recycling the lights through these programs is much better than tossing them in the trash and you get a coupon to purchase LED holiday lights. LED lights use less electricity and last longer. Double the savings! LED lights use up to 85% less electricity than incandescent lights.

Recycle your lights at these retailers:

- November 3 - November 13, Home Depot
- November 25th - January 31, 2012, Mom's Organic Market
- Now - January 31, 2012, Strosniders

The following websites provide additional information. When you mail them your old lights they give you a discount for future purchases:

- Christmas-light-source.com (10% discount)
- HolidayLEDs.com (25% discount)

As we hear of additional locations we will let you know. If you hear of additional locations, please let us know.

Composting at Home

If you currently don't compost, fall is a great time to utilize your leaves to start composting. In the end, you will have a great product that will enhance your garden. What do you need to do to get started?

1. Decide what type of bin you will use at home.
How you compost depends on what type of bin is used. Enclosed bins can be purchased at hardware and garden supply stores and online. Open top bins can be home made using a variety of supplies from chicken wire to unwanted wood pallets. Montgomery County provides compost bins like the one pictured here to Montgomery County residents at no additional charge. Compost bin pick-up locations can be found by visiting our website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.
2. Pick a spot. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. Shaded areas may require you to keep an eye out for your compost pile becoming too moist. On the other hand in a sunny area, you may need to keep an eye out for dryness of your material. Regardless of the location you pick, compost will happen.



3. Start composting! If you decide to only compost your leaves, compost will happen but it will take time. We recommend you add both brown sources that provide carbon and green sources that provide nitrogen to the compost. Below is a list of ingredients you can use.

Brown (Carbon) Sources

Dry leaves
Cotton rags
Dryer and vacuum lint
Sawdust
Straw
Wood chips

Green (Nitrogen) Sources

Plant trimmings
Flowers
Grass clippings
Fresh hay
Nut shells

When using an open top compost bin it is strongly discouraged to add food scraps as it can attract pests such as insects and rodents.

Once you have your ingredients, mix well and watch the magic happen. Mixing the compost pile will produce compost at a faster pace. You are ready to harvest your material when you have a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling material.

For additional information about composting, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES
RECYCLING VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECYCLES



Return Service Requested

EVENTS CALENDAR

For more information about the events below, please contact the Recycling Volunteer Program
at (240) 777-6445 or e-mail us at ana.arriaza@montgomerycountymd.gov.

All of our activities are approved Student Service Learning experiences.

Date	Time	Event	Location
November 19	9am – 12pm	Thanksgiving Parade	Silver Spring
19	10am – 2pm	America Recycles Day Event	Rockville, MD
20	10am - 2pm	America Recycles Day Event	Takoma Park, MD

We will keep you updated as more events get added to the calendar!

Don't forget to use reusable bags.



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